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SUBJECT World Radio Reactions to President Truman's Message of 17 March

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INTRODUCTION: Foreign radio references to the President's message have dropped precipitously since the weekend. In fact, monitored broadcast comment comes only from the Soviet news agency and from the clandestine Spanish transmitter, "Radio Euskadi, Voice of the Basque Resistance."

MOSCOW: Moscow's major reaction appears in the Soviet Home Service broadcast of a PRAVDA editorial, "Myronov of Truman's Message to Congress." Quoting Senator Taft and the WALL STREET JOURNAL to support its contention that "the speech was preceded by an unusually active and tendentious psychological treatment of American public opinion" contributing to "war hysteria," PRAVDA charges that Truman "ignored well-known facts and presented black and white" in "placing responsibility for the inverted critical international situation on the Soviet Union... (and) the countries of the people's democracy."¹ Then PRAVDA takes up three references to Czechoslovakia, Greece, Italy, and Finland, which allegedly "show" even though that Moscow has always said about American policy. Namely, that:

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"And finally, fourth, American diplomacy is not averse to repeating the past in the Finnish question by sacrificing the national interests of the Finnish people to the aims of monopolies and forcing upon Finland again the part of an anti-Soviet citadel... that is not blinded by malice and hatred toward the Soviet Union can consider this so-called proposal to Finland, as anything other than a desire to strengthen the peace and security of nations?"

In all of these areas, says Pravda, it is not the USSR but the U.S. which is threatening liberty; it is American armed forces, not Soviet, that in Greece and China are threatening liberty by "grooming the Greek and Chinese reactionaries."

Pravda also links Truman's message to the "formalization of a Western Union. It is to effect calculated to gain the Congress' consent for America's formal entry into the West European military-political bloc in violation of the traditional principles of the U.S. foreign policy." Nor does Pravda ignore the alleged political implications of the message, which is attributed to Truman's need of "an anti-Communism bogey and a war hysteria" to distract attention from... the lamentable results of the entire government policy." And finally, the Party organ reiterates the allegedly irridicous contrast between the USSR's "systematic reduction of defense expenditures" and its recent "demobilization decree" and the "militaristic" situation in the United States.

Other reactions from or approved by Moscow appear in a Linetsky (Soviet Home Service) commentary on the London conference of European Socialist Parties, "the European fifth column of American imperialism," and in a report ("English to North America) of a speech by Harry Pollitt, Secretary General of the British Communist Party. Linetsky uses such terms as "threats" and "blackmail" in charging that the message "proclaimed the intention of American ruling circles to take recourse to the sharpest possible measures in their struggle against the nations defending their right for a democratic existence." And the report of Pollitt's speech interprets the message as "Presidential sanction to the whole war hysteria and propaganda that is being conducted by the U.S. millionaires and trust magnates... in the hope that the mercenary armies of the Western Union would fight the Soviet Union and the new democratic states while U.S. millionaires produced the military supplies and raked in profits." Pollitt is also said to have appealed to the British to "reject all the present efforts to involve them in preparations for a war"--for "if Britain and the USSR fought for peace, no other country would dare try to organize another world war."

"VOICE OF THE BASQUE RESISTANCE": This clandestine Spanish transmitter (anti-Fascist, but non-Communist) applauds the message as a "positive achievement on the road to ultimate understanding with the Soviet Union." Citing "Soviet realism," the commentary contends that such a serious warning will really convince Soviet statesmen "that the western countries have established a line of contention beyond which it would be dangerous to impose their policies and doctrines. ... Only an undecided attitude of the west can lead to a new war."

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